

Fiscal Highlights

Dredging the Marinas of the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake - Ivan D. Djambov

The little precipitation in recent years has contributed to lower water levels of many lakes and reservoirs in Utah. In order to help boat owners launch their boats in the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake, the 2015 Legislature appropriated \$3 million one-time from restricted accounts (\$2.5 million from the Sovereign Lands Management Account and \$500,000 from the State Park Fees Account) for the dredging of the marinas of the two lakes (\$1.5 million each).

The Division of Facilities and Construction Management (DFCM) is overseeing these projects. As of August 2015, DFCM has contracted with an engineering firm (J-U-B Engineers) to do the design and secure the necessary permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One option is to build a cofferdam at the marinas and pump out water. Then, using heavy equipment, the marinas would be deepened.

The hope is that construction can begin this fall. One of the potential obstacles to the Utah Lake dredging project is freezing temperatures. But due to the higher concentration of salt and minerals, the water of the Great Salt Lake freezes at lower temperatures, and the construction project could potentially continue through the winter months.